THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 283, Wallingford, PA 19086

January 2, 1993 Issue #19

The year 1992 certainly had a turbulent flow to it as far as the professional wrestling business is concerned. It appears as though most of the focus this year was on things happening outside the ring, rather than concentrating on the actual product. The image of wrestling was trashed by the media in the earlier part of the year and TV ratings and house show attendances hit all-time lows, and there was no sign of change as the year ended. 1992 was an extremely crucial year for the business and can have many possible effects on the future of it. And assuredly, 1993 will be one of the most important years for this business as it will probably determine the very fate and viability of the business, but whether it will be a short-term or long-term prognosis, that cannot be answered. To look for some answers on what exactly happened this past year and what could happen in the coming years, we contacted several credible people in the business who have experienced many changes and who have a diverse knowledge of the characteristics of the pro wrestling industry. We asked Bill Apter (Senior Editor of London Publishing's publications), Terry Funk (former NWA Champion), Lou Albano (former wrestler and manager), Bruno Sammartino (2-time former WWF Champion), Dave Meltzer (The Wrestling Observer Newsletter), and Bill Watts (the WCW VP of Wrestling Operations) the following question: "What effects did all the happenings in the professional wrestling industry in the year 1992 have on the overall success, long-term well-being, and the existence of the wrestling business?"

BILL APTER

"As crazy as this sounds, I think it had a positive effect, because all the negative things that happened made wrestling look at itself and turn itself around the other way, to make itself better. And I think it's going to have a healthier, cleaner future in 1993."

TERRY FUNK

"I've always made the statement about professional wrestling, as it's very much of a pendulum in our sport because we are very different than all other sports. You can't compare it with anything else. Wrestling the sport itself, swings like a pendulum. The furthest point of the pendulum is entertainment. The furthest two swings on the pendulum are entertainment and wrestling- as we know, as the hardcore fans know how wrestling should be and what it should look like. That's a big determining factor in our business, and who determines that, is the fans. And that's the difference between it and every other sport because sports don't swing, they stay within in an area and they don't move. The fans come to them. And wrestling has swung too far towards entertainment and a correction was due. I never thought that it would be as big of a correction as it was. As far as the disappearance of stars, there's always been a disappearance of stars because in any form of entertainment or any sport, things change and the times change. As the times change, they change for the better or the worse. Unfortunately, as the pendulum swung, it swung too far out and it had to come back. It's just like the stock market, it never stays the same. It would be wonderful if we were smart enough and sharp enough to draw sell-outs every night, 365 nights a year, in every promotion. I don't think that's possible and I don't think anybody else thinks it's possible. But as far as the scandals and stuff like that, it has a long-term effect. And long-term, I'm looking at ten years time, wrestling's not going to disappear, big houses are not going to disappear, it will continue on. And it will come back and be as good as it ever was. Now, to reach the point of popularity it had, it may not. But I definitely will tell you that there will be many million dollar houses drawn within the next ten years. I'm 100% right in that because the sport has always continued on and it has had its ups and downs, and it will survive. It may not be the same promotion and it may not be Vince McMahon and it may not be Ted Turner, but believe me, wrestling will continue on and it will be big. As far as on a national status, it may never reach the point of status it had, but as far as popularity and drawing money, it will do that again. I'm a believer in wrestling, the sport. I believe the sport is bigger than Vince McMahon, and I'm not knocking anybody in that term, and it's bigger than who ever might be the controlling factor in the sport. I will die, Bruno will die, Bill Watts will die, and everybody else will die before the sport dies. The sport has too much of an appeal. The simplicity is appealing to it. What I'm telling you when I say simplicity is- a Spanish guy that can't speak a word of English, a Greek guy that can't speak a word of English can come into this country, a young child, from a Mongoloid to a

doctor, it doesn't take much to understand it (the concept of professional wrestling). The simplicity of the sport is what keeps it going. It's very simple, you've got one guy against another guy, it's not complicated to figure out what's going on."

LOU ALBANO

"I definitely feel that there was a definite effect. I I believe it was bad press of steroids and of the different allegations that went on. I don't think it helps wrestling out. I'd like to see the wrestling start switc switching back and getting back to a little more basics of wrestling and get away from too many gimmicks and so forth. As far as steroids, years ago when guys used steroids, it was legal at the time. But, they did not realize the devastating results, what they can do- they can kill, they can maim, they can cripple. And a kid has to realize that. Sometimes to take a shortcut, it doesn't work. And it could also mean your life. So steroids are wrong, drugs are wrong. I believe wrestling is cleaning up its act and realizes that it has to if it's going to be out there before the public. It's got to show a good example and I think they're headed in that direction. They're really trying to straighten everything up. (TV and houses) Hit all-time lows, I believe, with the bad press. I believe a lot of parents were very upset and stopped their children from going. As I said, besides the bad press they've had, I believe the overall using of too many gimmicks... It was okay to come on with a Wrestlemania like the first one, you had a Cyndi Lauper, you had Mr. T, you had me involved, you had Roddy Piper, you had Muhammad Ali, you had Liberace, you had all these people involved. That was fine, you do that occasionally, but not every couple of weeks. And there's monkeys and snakes and birds, and I believe they are just overdoing it. Let's get back to the basics of wrestling and your houses will pick back up. Give the people good, solid wrestling and I think you can do it. The business will never die completely, we all know that, but it will be hurt for a while. And as I said, if it's done right, it can come back. And that's the name of the game, they've got to get on the right path."

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"My answer is that in 1992, a lot of things came up that had been going on, probably starting in '83 when McMahon first took over, and it came to a head in '92. But, in my opinion, the damage had been done each year from that year, '83, and it just came to a climax in '92 when it all came out in the open. But, the damage had already been serious prior to '92, it's just that '92 was probably the big blow. What effect it will have is that wrestling has gotten a very bad black eye and it's going to take a long, long time for wrestling to get over what has happened in the past, say ten years, and what all came out in '92. And I think the overall picture is an extremely, extremely negative one for professional wrestling and for how it's viewed by what used to be the fans, loyal fans, and the public in general. I think that everything that has happened was brought on by Vince McMahon. I blame a lot of the wrestlers that have gone along with it. The only thing positive that could come out of any of this is if the fans were offended enough, hurt enough, angered enough that they would completely stay away so that the people who brought all these problems and all these disgusting news happenings that have happened will vanish from the business. The McMahons, in my opinion, have got to vanish from the business. Then, what good will come out of it is that when you cut out a cancer like that, there will be those who will have seen everything that has happened and understood what it has meant to the game, and will do the right thing in starting up again. But, that's down the road a good ways. The good that will come out of it is that some people will have learned that what has happened is something that can never happen again, because if it did ever happen again, it would absolutely be the end forever for professional wrestling. And that is not to say that what has happened may not be the end of wrestling for a lot longer than we may even think right now. If you're looking for something good to come out of it, hopefully it will smarten up a lot of people as to the dos and the don'ts for the business."

DAVE MELTZER

"It's going to be the beginning of major changes. How these changes come out, I don't know. But, the business that has operated between '84 and '92, I think that it kind of ran its course in some ways. The scandals were probably a catalyst in TV ratings, which is then a catalyst in TV stations dropping the shows, which then presented a predicament they're in now where the TVs are in a lot worse time slots and less people are watching them and therefore, the attendance generally is down. Plus, I think that there's been an inability to create new stars and the older stars are stale. I think that they'll have to develop some new stars over the next year or two. And maybe the structure of the business may have to change also to ways where the big promoters don't try to monopolize the entire business to where the small promotions are stifled and therefore, new stars aren't created. And I think that maybe the big promotions are going to have to be less greedy as far as trying to monopolize the entire business, for the good of the business long-term. If it keeps going the way it's going, if changes are not made, it's going to get less and less popular. I don't think it get to where there's no business, but it'll be on a lot smaller scale, and that's kind of what we saw in the last couple months of this year, anyway. (1993) I think we're going to see a real tumultuous year with a lot of major changes, but what they are, it just depends on what's in the people's minds who are going to be in control. Who even knows who's going to be in control by the end of next year of a lot of these companies. I mean, if something happens with McMahon with the Justice Department... Any prediction is ridiculous because then that's thrown out. And who knows what they're going to do? If they don't do anything, then he's still going to have to prove that he can turn the thing around again.

And if he's not there to turn it around, which is very unlikely that that will happen, but it's possible, I suppose, then who even knows what will happen to the WWF. I mean, is someone else going to get it or will it disintegrate into different groups, who knows? I just don't think that anything can be predicted of what's going to happen with the business in this country next year because there's just too many question marks right now. (positive things in 1992) There were positives, a lot of good matches and everything. I think it was a nice warning sign, I think the business was operating in a way where there was going to be a day of reckoning. I think the day of reckoning came as far as the drug use and everything. It was bound to happen, it was just a question of when. Actually, I think that they were lucky it happened now, because it easily could have happened two years ago. I hope WCW will heave that warning, which they don't really... They sort of... No, they aren't, they really aren't. As far as positives... I have to say on the big shows, the WWF put on two good matches on almost every big show. I think there was a lot of different creativity. I think that there were periods of creativity in WCW, but not consistent periods. I mean, here and there, I think that they had some really nice ideas. WWF- there was a lot of new ideas. I think as far as bouncing the title around all this time, I think that they didn't help matters. And I think WCW pretty much killed off a lot of the prestige of its title by the end of the year, so I wouldn't say those were positives, either, as far as like the treatment of the titles themselves. I think the value of both belts went down."

BILL WATTS

"Well, I think we're seeing the overall effect of just the business. These other things (scandals, houses and TV hitting all-time lows) are just a part of it. I don't think those things are the cause, I think they're the effect of the overall status of the industry. I think the industry has been down-trending since '86. There was a mega-trend, a mega-change in the thing and you had the destruction of the infrastructure of this business, the very thing that kept it alive- all the independent areas that had places for new talent to get in, get experienced on a regular basis, and then as they rose up, they advanced to bigger and better areas. Also, the different areas as they had turnovers in ownership, you get better people in or worse people in. So, you had a constantly changing industry that had eighteen to twenty different places in this country to go work. And now you basically have two. At the time you had these two, one guy took it and made it a faddish event to be with a lot of tremendous media blitzing and positioning. At the same time, he totally killed the credibility of our business. It was always questionable, but he removed all doubt, and turned his empire into a cartoon comic strip come to life concept. And he thought that, it was so big and making so much money, it would go on and on forever. And this company here evolved into it and all of a sudden, they had people that in my opinion, TV executives, that didn't understand the industry and didn't even understand how to pay attention to their own research. They started copying it and combined with that, this company had a bunch TV executives that knew nothing about it and they started guaranteeing talent huge contracts that had no basis for performance or incentive. So they didn't give a damn whether they made the event or didn't make the event or had a good match or had a bad match, they got paid. The NFL experienced the same thing back in the early '60s where they had guaranteed contracts and they would end up with a lot of #1 draft picks sitting on the bench. They quit doing it. When you sign a contract with the NFL, you get your bonus and if you don't make the team, they get rid of you. So they're not long-term tied to you on anything guaranteed. You've got to have a "dog eat dog" concept of survival of the fittest in all the sports. The other aspect is that the WWF bought all the big stars. The wrestling stars were all owned by this company, but this company got top-heavy contract-wise so there was no way to influx anything new. The WWF never has developed anything on its own, so it took all the top stars. Well, you had a total stagnation of turnover. In other words, since both areas, where every TV they showed goes nationwide, all the top stars and everything you had in wrestling was being exposed every week on television nationwide. Whereas in the old days, if you were a big star in one small regional area, and another area was down and its talent was stale, they could bring you in and a couple of guys and you would rejuvenate or spark the local area, because you were new and you were doing things different. Well, pretty soon, Vince McMahon went through his repertoire... Hulk Hogan hit an era where he became the new success point of wrestling, but it also had gotten so big through Vince's very, very shrewd marketing and positioning, he made so damn much money that he got bigger than the business. As he got bigger than business, he no longer needed to meet the demands and the rigors of a daily schedule, he didn't need to stay as focused in one aspect. As he (Hogan) retired and then Andre the Giant and all these great established people retired, they didn't replace them with anybody. And as they came down and tried to replace them with guys like The Ultimate Warrior, who has never had any credibility in my opinion, and who didn't know shit from shinola, and never's had any integrity in my opinion, and different people like that that couldn't carry the mantle and wouldn't even keep their word, and they got into chaos. Then they established stars- The Macho Man, he's been there forever, the DiBiases, the Ric Flairs, they've all ended up in ruts and they've all been there forever. So it's a culmination of all these things. So you finally reach a point, down-trend, down-trend, down-trend, but then it reaches saturation for all these effects to take total charge, and it's like it fell off a cliff. So it wasn't 1992, 1992 just saw it finally hit the bottom. It is in the worst crisis it has ever been in because you can't reach out to another regional territory and pick up a superstar to rejuvenate it. And they all think, well gosh, we've got to go find the next Hulk Hogan. Well, there's no next Hulk Hogan out there right now. That's a phenomenon that just comes

along once in a while and it has to have all these right things in places for it to happen, because Hulk Hogan truly became a mega-star, he developed into as big of a star that has ever been in this business. It was on a much bigger level than Bruno Sammartino. He had a longer lifetime and a longer regularity and everything of drawing money, but back then, it was limited to just the east coast. Whereas, Hulk Hogan's projection was worldwide. He still hasn't stood the test of time like a Lou Thesz, a Bruno Sammartino, or anybody else, but he was projected so much bigger because McMahon did it in such a bigger method and a bigger presentation. And now, Hulk is not here, Flair's hit his golden years in this business and he's now with an outfit that doesn't really feature his best abilities. He's like a square peg in a round hole with the WWF and they haven't stayed with him and they're sitting there grasping at straws trying to figure out who's going to be their savior and they don't have any. And at the same time, with this infrastructure gone, where do the new kids learn to get the experience to do what the made the business great. So what these guys all say to us guys from the past, "The business has changed." I want to tell you, the business has not changed. The same emotion that makes somebody want to watch a match or not watch a match is still out there. The only difference in the business that's changed is that we used to draw money, all over, in every little area, and these areas ran on a regular basis. The wrestling fan and the wrestling industry has been destroyed. So we have to rebuild it out of the ashes of this chaos and take it back- I don't mean back it up like, take a 1993 car and make it a 1950 car- but we have to reestablish the traditions of this business where the athletes have a bond between the wrestling fan, their peers, and the promotion to have the integrity to show up for their bookings, be in condition, drug free, and be able to go out there and bust their ass and to give the people their money's worth. You can go back to one or two other major factors, the AIDS aspect and blood, but that's just a small effect. The major effect has come about because you had a mega-trend where your industry is down to two places that expose everything that they do nationwide every time they do it, and there has been nothing new. You had the same model in New Japan Pro Wrestling in Japan three or four years ago. They were stale and they had their two top stars retire- Inoki and Sakaguchi, who had been carrying the mantle for twenty years. They invested in the time and money to build the Sakaguchis, the Sasakis, the Mutas, and the Chonos, and the Ligers. They've got five Olympians in their program and as they took the time and invested and built them, now they're reaping the benefits, they've rebuilt their business. And they went back to wrestling and they went back seriousness. And the other thing they did is they didn't go out and buy big superstars with inflated egos, they made people, no matter who they were, come into their system and learn to wrestle and learn to pay a price to be in this business because they wanted to be in this business. They didn't go kiss somebody's ass, they didn't go find some steroid freak that used to be a hairdresser or used to play in a band, they went and found people with athletic ability. They've got five Olympians in that program. It's that long range planning and it was going back to the basics, and that's to me, where this industry is now in the United States. It's in a crisis point. Everybody says, "Oh, Vince loves the industry." Ah, excuse me, I think he loved the power and the money. I think he hates wrestling. If he loved wrestling, he couldn't pervert it and present it in the light that he presents it in. So it's going through its shake out phases. Naturally in our country, everything's very faddish. But, I always said that the wrestling industry has not been healthy for a long time. Where you had every territory running one or two towns every night all over the United States, it got down to two companies running one or two towns a night, and now it's not even that. It was just made into a farce and the talent had no respect for anything except themselves and the promoters had no respect for the talent. But, the talent wants to blame it all on management. But when the talent doesn't show up or miss bookings or have shitty matches, they're just as much to blame as the management. So that is my opinion on what got us here and where we are. Two things were happening when my territory went down. One thing, which killed the whole country, was Reagan's new tax package which devalued the greatest asset in this country, land, by some 40% when they said you could no longer write off your interest when you're buying property, unless you're buying it as a home. That wrecked every person that was investing in real estate as a long-term investment. All banks were collateralized based on land back then, so the banks went down. They now have banks collateralized based on your ability to repay, your cash flow. And you have an area that I was in, the five states primarily, which was my cash flow, had that happen to it plus the oil impact as it crashed. You had total devastation. The entertainment market was affected too. Rock bands quit drawing, the country western quit drawing. It was like the money was shut off with a spigot. Fortunately, I had seen the mega-trend happening in wrestling, even though I couldn't stop it. I wasn't big enough, I wasn't in a big enough demographic area, I didn't have the backing. It was a brand new era where we had started doing our own syndication, we were starting to get revenue from our program. But Vince was in the media areas and he had a million dollar warchest that his dad and he had accumulated. He was ahead of everybody and he was already in the biggest populated areas in the country. He could buy your top guy, put him on his preliminaries, and make him more money. He'd just come in and buy all your top talent out from under you. It was a well planned thing by him and he got away with it. With all the other ingredients, it was apparently meant to happen. Here we are with all this accumulative effect, it's finally come home to roost. But, thank God it's also going to kick his ass! Here we are at WCW, we know where the industry is and we know where it's going. But we are fortunate in that it's a part of Ted Turner's situation and his vision, and he has the backing, he has the staying power. So if we just get ourself reorganized

and get back to the basics and start looking for new talent- which we're constantly doing, and hells' bells, I don't try to fool anybody that some of the young talent we're putting on are the next superstars. But, you've got to give them a chance. At least it's better to tune into our show and see somebody new than to watch the same old shit over and over again. Who wants to watch formula matches, or as you guys term them- squash matches, on every TV show? So we're trying to go back to exciting TV. The last thing I feel will react are the live gates. I think we'll do well with our television ratings, we'll do well with our PPVs, we'll do well with our Clashes, when we have what people want to see. Then you get up to the situation, we can hype market and we can book them, but your talent basically, most of them don't know how to carry the event. That's the big loss, they don't have the experience to carry the big events. We have to get them back to where they have the basics and they have the concepts to where they can then live up to what we can market. It's a crazy deal."

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Lex Luger (Larry Pfhol), 34, will make an appearance at the Royal Rumble and he will be introduced by Bobby Heenan. He will be called Narcissus, and they will be pushing him as a heel who is in love with himself and to upset Mr. Perfect, they will be saying that he's beyond perfect quite frequently. In an interview that Heenan just did to announce that he will be "unveiling" this Greek legend at the Rumble, "The Brain" made it clear that they are going to have an immediate feud with Mr. Perfect and Narcissus. In the interview, Heenan said that Narcissus was going to be the guy that finishes Perfect off after Ric Flair is done with him. It appears that the expected Flair-Perfect feud won't be as big as many had thought. Several sources say that Narcissus vs Perfect will be one of the main events at Wrestlemania and that Narcissus will instantly be the promotion's top heel. Pfhol, due to contractual obligations with WCW, can't wrestle for the WWF until March 1.

Nailz (Kevin Patrick Wacholz) filed a complaint of sexual assault with the Brown County Sheriff's Department against Vince McMahon on 12/14 at about 4:49 pm following an incident that took place backstage at the TV tapings that day at the Brown County Expo Center in Green Bay, WI. Officer Scott Semb filed the following incident report; "The victim, a wrestler with the WWF, said in his statement that Vincent K. McMahon sexually assaulted him. McMahon is the president/owner of the WWF and the incident happened in locker room #1 at the Brown Co. Arena. Wacholz was alone with McMahon talking about money when McMahon grabbed the victim's sexual organ and attempted to fondle him. Wacholz pushed McMahon away knocking him to floor. At that time agents and wrestlers came in and separated the two. The door to the locker room was partially open and the victim believes the three witnesses may have seen or heard something. The victim also said this is the second time McMahon assaulted him. The first was at Madison Square Garden, last month." The three witnesses named in the report were Owen Hart, Arnold Skaaland, and Robert Remus (Sgt Slaughter). WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta offered the following statements to Mike Mooneyham of The Charleston Post & Courier in South Carolina, "Nailz was in Vince's office at the building raving, yelling, and screaming. He gave Vince an ultimatum about his pay, and when Vince said no, Nailz attacked him." Planamenta also stated, "Nailz had demanded that Vince wire him $150,000 for the next two nights' work. Some of the guys said he (Kevin Wacholz) has complained about taking the drug test, but it's all part of the game. This is the first case, however, that has resulted in a physical attack. It's very unfortunate." The filed incident was sent to the district attorney's office and is being investigated.

Max Moon (Kato - Paul Diamond - Tom Boric) underwent arthroscopic knee surgery on 12/16 (didn't work either nights of TV on 12/14 and 12/15, and flew home for the surgery on 12/16, missing the house show that day). He has been pulled from all of his scheduled dates and his future with the company right now is uncertain. The word came out from several sources that he had been fired on 12/21 or 12/22 for reasons non-related to wrestling. But he has not been told yet whether or not he was fired.

Kamala (James Harris) will be wrestling Kimchee (Steve "Brooklyn Brawler" Lombardi) at the houses starting on 2/5 in Tampa, FL, and he has a TV match with Repo Man on 1/18, so he must be turning face within the next two weeks. Slick will manage Kamala and will work all TV and house shows and Harvey Whippleman will continue to manage Kimchee.

Yokozuna is expected to get a big push and many think he will win the Royal Rumble and therefore, he'll be the person who challenges Bret Hart for the WWF title at the 4/4 Wrestlemania. Yokozuna (Rodney "Kokina" Anoai) will be wrestling Undertaker on most February house shows and will also wrestle Randy Savage on sporadic occasions.

The new Monday night program on the USA Network will not be called "Pro Wrestling Raw," it will be called "Monday Night Raw." They will air the first show live from the Manhattan Center in New York City on 1/11 with Undertaker-Demento, Yokozuna-Koko Ware, and matches with Doink, Steiners, and Michaels. There will also be a live interview with Razor Ramon. They will tape two shows on 1/18 at the Manhattan Center, one will air live on 1/18 and the other will air on 1/25, as that night they have TV tapings in California. Matches being taped on 1/18 are Kamala (with Slick)-Repo, Virgil-Bigelow, Tatanka-Taylor, Perfect-Shango, Jannetty-Skinner, and Santana-Flair. The Manhattan Center studios is only a temporary experiment. They are going to other have Raw TV tapings on 2/1, 2/22, 3/1, 3/15, and 3/22, but they have not decided where they are going to hold the tapings.

The WWF is running shows in England from 2/2 to 2/4 with Hart-Flair, Money Inc-Nasty Boys, Bossmam-Bigelow, Undertaker-Shango, Jannetty-Martel, Virgil-Repo, and Bushwhackers-Headshrinkers. The WWF is touring Germany from 2/5 to 2/10 with two different cards. Hart-Bigelow, Undertaker-Flair, Bossman-Shango, Nasty-Money, Jannetty-

Repo, Virgil-Martel, and Bushwhackers-Headshrinkers. The other group of cards have Hart-Martel, Bossman-Flair, Undertaker-Bigelow, Money-Bushwhackers, Virgil-Shango, Nasty-Headshrinkers, and Jannetty-Repo. The US houses from 1/27 to 1/31 have Hart-Bigelow, Backlund-Michaels, Perfect-Flair, Bossman-Ramon, Tatanka-Demento, Steiners-Beverlys, Typhoon-Shango, and Santana-Skinner. US houses from 2/12 to 2/14 has Perfect-Michaels, Savage-Yokozuna, Backlund-Doink the Clown, Steiners-Beverlys, Tatanka-Shango, Kamala-Kimchee, Santana-Demento, Taylor-Powers. The San Jose, CA TV taping on 1/25 has Money Inc vs Big Bossman & Tatanka, Earthquake vs Yokozuna, and Bret Hart vs Bam Bam Bigelow. What all of this means is that Hart, Flair, Bigelow, Shango, and Bossman will be working all dates from 1/22 to 2/10, except for the days spent going over to England from the US. That's a hectic schedule.

WWF at the War Memorial Auditorium in Utica, NY on 12/26 with 4,500 (many freebies, mostly kids): Virgil pinned Skinner. Terry Taylor pinned Jim Powers. Tatanka beat Berzerker. Razor Ramon beat Big Bossman. Bob Backlund (was over for a change) pinned Rick Martel. Headshrinkers beat High Energy when Samu pinned Ware. The Undertaker pinned Papa Shango.

WWF at the Civic Center in Hartford, CT on 12/26 with about 4,800: Jim Duggan beat Brooklyn Brawler. Lance Cassidy beat Repo Man. Bushwhackers & midget Tiger Jackson beat Beverly Brothers & midget Little Mickey Moses when Jackson pinned Moses. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys. Shawn Michaels beat Marty Janetty. Damian Demento beat Tito Santana. Bret Hart beat Ric Flair in 30+ minutes.

WWF at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY on 12/27 with 10,000: Cassidy beat Repo. Demento pinned Santana. Bushwhackers & Jackson beat Beverlys & Moses. Jim Duggan beat Brawler. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys when IRS pinned Knobs after DiBiase hit him with the briefcase. Randy Savage wrestled Shawn Michaels to a double-countout. Hart pinned Flair in about 25 minutes. They return there on 2/26 with Undertaker vs Yokozuna.

WWF at the West Chester County Center in White Plains, NY on 12/28 with 2,900: Beverlys beat Bushwhackers. Tito Santana beat Mike Sharpe. Tatanka beat Demento. Backlund beat Martel. Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Virgil. Undertaker pinned Shango.

WWF at the Palace of Auburn Hills, MI on 1/1: Santana beat Brawler. Bigelow beat Typhoon. Repo (cheered) beat Powers (booed). Mr. Perfect beat Ramon by DQ when Flair interfered. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys when IRS pinned Knobs. Crush beat Beau Beverly. Hart pinned Flair.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Big Van Vader captured the WCW Championship from Ron Simmons in Baltimore, MD on 12/30 before 2,800 fans when Vader cleanly pinned Simmons in a match that lasted near fifteen minutes. Simmons was on the offense a lot of the match and had slammed Vader on the floor, powerslammed him in the ring, threw him off the top rope to the mat, delivered many clotheslines, and sidescoop slammed him. After all of that, Vader came back and did a couple of his basic moves and then cleanly pinned Simmons with a simple shoulderbreaker. During the time Simmons was on the offense, Harley Race was repeatedly yelling, "No pain, Vader," into the house mic. It appears as though they're pushing Vader as the huge awesome monster he is and that he destroyed Simmons with ease even after he took every move Simmons can do. TV cameras were there that night and several photographers were shooting from ringside. They came out one match before Vader's, which was the final bout of the evening, to prepare for the Vader-Simmons match. The night before (12/29) in Philadelphia, the camera crew was there as well, but Simmons wasn't. His wife notified WCW that afternoon that Ron wasn't going to show up in Philly that night because she was sick. On the next day, Bill Watts ordered Simmons to show up for his booking in Baltimore, he gave Simmons an ultimatum, and Ron Simmons made his booking that day and dropped the belt.

Starrcade '92 took place at the Omni in Atlanta, GA on 12/28 with about 7,500 fans in attendance. In the dark match, Brad Armstron beat Shanghai Pierce. Dan Spivey & Van Hammer beat Cactus Jack & Johnny B. Badd, Big Van Vader & Dustin Rhodes beat Barbarian & Kensuke Sasaki, Great Muta & Barry Windham beat Brian Pillman & 2 Cold Scorpio, Steve Williams & Sting beat Jushin Liger & Erik Watts, Masa Chono beat The Great Muta, Ron Simmons beat Williams by DQ, Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Pillman & Windham, Sting beat Vader for The King of Cable, and Great Muta won the Battle Bowl battle royal. Out of 81 calls to our hotline, the average grade for the show came out to a solid "B."

Sting has recently missed several of his bookings, including an afternoon show in Charlotte, NC on 12/27, because WCW over-booked him on the amount of shows that he is contractually obligated to make. He signed a contract with WCW and it states that he is only required to work 250 dates a year. And in the year 1992, they scheduled him for more than 250 dates, and it went over the limit around the middle of December.

Barry Windham is already doing some of the "booking" that he is expected to do once he stops wrestling. He helped rearrange the matches with Bill Watts and Dusty Rhodes backstage at the 12/29 Philadelphia show as many of the scheduled wrestlers didn't appear.

It appears as though Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton will be taking a "sabbatical" for about three months and then will return to WCW. It is expected that Eaton will work for Smoky Mountain Wrestling during his time off from WCW and Anderson will probably continue to recuperate from his knee injury.

WCW at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, FL on 12/26 with 1,400: Steve Austin wrestled Erik Watts to a time limit draw. Madusa wrestled Paul E. Dangerously to a draw. Brian Pillman pinned Brad Armstrong. Barry Windham pinned Dustin Rhodes after hitting Rhodes with his boot. Johnny B. Badd knocked out Scotty Flamingo in the third round of the boxing match. Big Van Vader & Barry Windham beat Ron Simmons & Masa Chono by DQ when Dustin Rhodes interfered and hit Windham with his boot. Before the match, Rick Rude refused to leave the ringside area and Dusty Rhodes came down to order him back, but Dusty

bodyslammed Harley Race, and then both Rude and Rhodes were taken back to the dressing room. Sting pinned Great Muta. Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Jushin Liger & Kensuke "Power Warrior" Sasaki when Steamboat pinned Liger after a high cross body off the top rope.

WCW at the Civic Center in Philadelphia, PA on 12/29 with 1,126: 2 Cold Scorpio beat Vinnie Vegas. Madusa wrestled Paul E. to a draw. Watts beat Slashinger. Badd beat Flamingo in a boxing match with a knockout in the third round. Windham beat Rhodes. Sting & The Great Muta beat Vader & Masa Chono when Sting pinned Chono. Douglas & Steamboat beat Liger & Sasaki when Steamboat pinned Liger. Some of the scheduled matches that didn't come off were Simmons vs Vader, Austin vs Chono, Anderson & Eaton vs Pillman & Spivey, and Sting vs Muta.

WCW at the Baltimore Arena in Baltimore, MD on 12/30 with about 2,800: Scorpio beat Slashinger. Watts beat Vegas. Badd beat Flamingo in the boxing match with a knockout. Windham beat Rhodes by DQ when Dustin hit Barry with a chair. Sting pinned Austin after a DDT. Steamboat & Douglas beat Pillman & Bobby Eaton in a great match when Douglas pinned Eaton after a belly-to-belly suplex. Big Van Vader pinned Ron Simmons to win the WCW Championship title.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

The Legends of Wrestling Weekend is on 1/23 and 1/24 at the Philadelphia International Airport Radisson Hotel in Philadelphia, PA with the convention both days from 12-6 pm and the ECW/WWA card the night of 1/23. Superstars lined up for the convention both days are "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior," Road Warriors Hawk & Animal, Sid Vicious, Davey Boy Smith, Terry Funk, Kerry Von Erich, Woman, and Kevin Sullivan. Entrance tickets are just $3 in advance and $5 at the door. Autographed color photos and photos with the wrestlers are also available. The ECW/WWA card will take place the night of 1/23 in the hotel with Eddie Gilbert vs Terry Funk in an I Quit match, WWA Champion Spider (managed by Dennis Coraluzzo) vs ECW Champion Sandman (managed by Tod Gordon), WWA Tag Team Champions Lords of Darkness vs ECW Tag Team Champions Super Destroyers, Kevin Sullivan vs Wildman Sal Bellomo, Davey Boy Smith vs Masked Superstar, and Johnny Hotbody vs Tony Stetson in a Bullrope Brass Knuckles match. For information and tickets for all events, call (215)244-9590.

Former NAWA promoter (until it went bankrupt) Tony "Godfather" Capone lost $165,000, 100 pounds and wants to start wrestling again, but doesn't want to promote.

The Galaxy Wrestling Federation has a big indie show (to the tune of about $35,000) in Pennbrook, FL at the Lakes Mall on 1/17 with The Ultimate Warrior vs Jake Roberts, Warlord vs Davey Boy Smith, Kerry Von Erich vs Jim Neidhart, and Jim Duggan vs Mountie.

A loaded indie show is taking place at the US Sub Base in Groton, CT on 2/6 with "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior" vs Warlord, Jake Roberts vs Davey Boy Smith, Greg Valentine vs Jimmy Snuka, and Jim Duggan.

There is a lot of talk down in the Carolinas about the possibility of Jim Crockett starting up again in the area of Charlotte and Greensboro, NC in November 1993.

FLYER FAN FARE

Sheldon Goldberg's Mat Marketplace is offering a great 1993 Wrestling Photo Calendar with B&W shots of some of the greats in our sport. It sells for $8 ($10 outside of US) at PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Tommy Fierro of 14 Terrace Ave, West Paterson, NJ 07424 puts out the weekly Ringside Newsletter at $5 for 4 issues. This features columns by Amy Lee and others.

If anyone is interested in contacting Mr. Joel Goodhart's current employer to let them know about his failure to pay money to many, many people that he owes it to, drop the VP of Public Relations at Prudential Insurance Company of America, Mr. William Low, a line at PO Box 288, Fort Washington, PA 19034. It's time to show Mr. Goodhart that the wrestling fans who were ripped off aren't going to let him get away with it.

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES- INTERVIEWS WITH: #4: Jerry Lawler, #5: Paul Roma and Johnny B Badd, #6: Iron Sheik and Jimmy Snuka, #7: Bruno Sammartino, #8: Kerry Von Erich, #9: Sammartino, #10: Terry Taylor, #11: Hawk and Taylor, #12: Marty Jannetty, #13: Jannetty, #14: Road Warrior Animal, #15: Buddy Landell, #16: Davey Boy Smith and Paul Ellering, #17: Jake Roberts, #18: Roberts and Bill Watts.
Each back issue is $2 and they can be ordered by sending the proper payment to PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could phone in a report of any live shows you attend within a day after the event is held, to our hotline, (215) 566-6590. And after you view any major event (PPVs, cable specials, etc), it would be appreciated if you could phone in your grade for the whole show: A (best) to F (worst), within a day after the event takes place. We would appreciate your participation in these two important activities.

*** Please phone in your grade for the 1/13 Clash ***

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a bi-weekly publication available by subscription at $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of U.S.) per issue, $6 for 4 issues, $12 for 8 issues, $18 for 12 issues, etc. This newsletter with fascinating and topical interviews, fresh inside news, articles, results, and a great color photo, will be sent via first-class mail to you every other week.
The color photo with issue #19 is of Mr. Perfect.

The number after your name on the address label tells you how many issues are left on your current subscription with us. If you have a (0) after your name, this is your last issue.

Send all subscription orders, letters to the editor (to be printed in the Flyer Fan Fare section), merchandise orders, and all other inquiries to: THE WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086. Please make all payments (cash, checks, money orders) payable to the editor, John Clark. THANK YOU.

(*) - TV TAPING

FEBRUARY 1993 WWF/WCW EVENT SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 WWF MANHATTAN CENT (*) WCW GAINESVILLE,GA (*)	2 WWF MANCHESTER,ENGLND WCW COLUMBUS,GA (*)	3 WWF NEWCASTLE,ENGLAND	4 WWF LONDON,ENGLAND	5 WWF TAMPA,FL BAYREUTH,GERMANY WCW HUNTSVILLE,AL	WWF 6 BOSTON,MA SPRINGFIELD,MA MANNHEIM,GERMANY WCW VIDALIA,GA CARROLLTON,GA	7 WWF HERSHEY,PA PHILADELPHIA,PA HAMBURG,GERMANY WCW ATLANTA,GA
8 WWF BALTIMORE,MD BERLIN,GERMANY	WWF 9 ASCHAFFENBURG,GER WCW CENTER STAGE (*)	10 WWF DORTMUND,GERMANY	11	WWF 12 PORTLAND,OR WCW HOUSTON,TX	WWF 13 OAKLAND,CA WCW ALEXANDRIA,LA	WWF 14 STOCKTON,CA WCW THIBODAUX,LA
15 WWF LONG BEACH,CA (*)	16 WWF SAN DIEGO,CA (*) WCW DOTHAN,AL (*)	17 WWF OSHKOSH,WI SAN BERNADINO,CA	18 WWF STEVENSPOINT,WI FARGO,ND WCW LIVE OAK,FL	19 WWF MINNEAPOLIS,MN MILWAUKEE,WI WCW JACKSONVILLE,FL	20 WWF GARY,IN ROSEMONT,IL LANDOVER,MD EMMITSBURG,MD	WWF 21 INDIANAPOLIS,IN FORT WAYNE,IN HARTFORD,CT WORCESTER,MA WCW ASHEVILLE,NC (PPV)
22	23 WCW CENTER STAGE (*)	24	25 WWF MEMPHIS,TN CALGARY,AB WCW BALTIMORE,MD	26 WWF UNIONDALE,NY EDMONTON,AB WCW PHILADELPHIA,PA	WWF 27 LONDON,ON WINNEPEG,MB AUBURN HILLS,MI WCW DETROIT,MI	WWF 28 DAYTON,OH CINCINNATI,OH THUNDER BAY,ON WCW CHICAGO,IL

(*) - TV TAPING

MARCH 1993 WWF EVENT SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 DULUTH,MN RAW TV TAPING (*)	2 OFF	3 OFF	4 OFF	5 CAPE GIRARDEAU,MO HOUSTON,TX	6 BOWLING GREEN,KY LOUISVILLE,KY HUNTSVILLE,AL	7 LEXINGTON,KY KNOXVILLE,TN
8 CHARLESTON,NC (*)	9 AUGUSTA,GA (*)	10 PETERBOROUGH,ON SAVANNAH,GA	11 CHARLOTTETOWN,ON JOHNSTOWN,PA	12 ERIE,PA HALIFAX,NS	13 YOUNGSTOWN,OH PITTSBURGH,PA MONCTON,NB	14 ROCHESTER,NY BINGHAMTON,NY ST. JOHN'S,NF
15 MONTREAL,PQ RAW TV TAPING (*)	16 OFF	17 OFF	18 OFF	19 UTICA,NY MOBILE,AL	20 ALBANY,NY NEW HAVEN,CT DAYTONA BEACH,FL	21 MIAMI,FL WEST PALM BEACH,FL BOSTON,MA NEW YORK,NY -MSG
22 ST. LOUIS,MO RAW TV TAPING (*)	23 KANSAS CITY,MO TOLEDO,OH	24 COLUMBUS,MO COLUMBUS,OH	25 DENVER,CO RICHFIELD,OH	26 SACRAMENTO,CA POUGHKEEPSIE,NY ITHACA,NY	27 HONOLULU,HI SCRANTON,PA PHILADELPHIA,PA	28 LOS ANGELES,CA TORONTO,ON KINGSTON,ON